

been clear: they are demanding a vote to keep Americans safe from gun violence.

When the Speaker announced a vote this week on gun violence, the American people hoped this would be a vote for families and children, a vote to honor victims and survivors of senseless gun violence, and a vote to keep Americans safe from harm. Instead, the American families have been given a bait-and-switch.

The bill we have in front of us is a vote for powerful special interests, a vote to honor the millions of dollars of the NRA's campaign spending, and a vote for a bill that does nothing to keep Americans safe from harm. This is a bill backed by the heavyhanded gun lobby that ensures it is easier for terrorist suspects to buy an assault rifle than to get on a plane.

Last week, representing half a million people, the mayors in my district came together and asked me to deliver a letter to Speaker RYAN. In part it reads:

"A strong and growing number of our constituents are deeply frustrated with the inaction of this Congress. We urge you to allow debate and votes on expanding background checks and keeping guns out of the hands of suspected terrorists."

The time is now for those votes.

IS THIS THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE?

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we have heard Speaker RYAN say it. We have heard Majority Leader MCCARTHY say it. We have heard Leader PELOSI say it. We have heard Whip HOYER say it. We have all said it. We proudly refer to this body as the people's House.

Well, implicit in calling this the people's House is that we are responsive to what the citizens of this country want us to do. What a sham that description is when it comes to gun safety, what a total sham.

In my district, we are running at a record pace of homicide by gunfire. My constituents want to know why we can't even have a debate and a vote on sensible universal background checks which, according to a poll this week, 92 percent of the American people want.

I call on Speaker RYAN to fulfill the promise of the people's House and bring sensible gun safety legislation to this floor.

NO FLY, NO BUY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent a diverse district in New York, a State whose ban on assault weapons was just upheld by the Supreme Court, and a State which just

closed, on the State level, the senseless loopholes in our Federal gun purchasing regulations that allow known criminals and domestic abusers to obtain guns.

But one group of people New York's gun safety laws cannot reach are terrorist suspects. That is because the Federal Government controls the terrorism watch list. So it is up to Congress to make sure we keep guns out of the hands of known terrorists. And the vast majority of Americans agree, so we must act.

Mr. Speaker, this body has no more important mandate than to ensure the safety of our citizens. We must pass no fly, no buy, and we must pass comprehensive background checks to close the loopholes for those that are trying to purchase guns, and we need to act now. Enough is enough.

CITIZENS ARE DEMANDING REAL ANSWERS

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, since our sit-in, led by our moral leader, JOHN LEWIS, a steady, consistent chorus of voices across the country is growing louder demanding action on gun violence. The heartfelt calls, letters, emails, and social media postings continue to flood in from my constituents.

These are grandparents, mothers, young people who are saying "enough." In Sacramento alone, 60 people have lost their lives this last year. These are people who believe in the power of democracy, who are raising their voices, and who are counting on us to listen. They are saying "enough" to Republicans not having the courage to stand up to the powerful gun lobby.

The NRA-backed Republican deal we are considering today is an empty promise to the American people. It would make it nearly impossible to stop suspected terrorists from purchasing firearms, and it would do nothing to close a loophole that allows criminals to bypass a background check by simply going online or to a gun show.

Mr. Speaker, our citizens are demanding real answers, not hollow gestures. Let's listen to them. We will not rest until you do.

MEANINGFUL GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined my Democratic colleagues from Michigan for a standing-room-only meeting of community members concerned about gun violence in our country. We were joined by representatives from law enforcement, the faith community, domestic violence advocates,

the LGBT community, and grassroots organizations.

We are at a turning point. The Speaker called our sit-down efforts a stunt. How wrong. It is the proposal that he is offering that would be a stunt instead of really addressing tragic gun violence confronting this Nation.

We should be considering the bipartisan, commonsense legislation that Americans overwhelmingly support: preventing suspected terrorists from buying guns, known as no buy, no fly, and closing loopholes that allow online and gun show sales to go forward without background checks.

There is strong public interest for action. We witnessed that last week. The Speaker must no longer stand in the way.

WE MUST PURSUE COMMONSENSE GUN VIOLENCE LEGISLATION

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, we must pursue commonsense gun violence legislation, legislation that makes a real impact on the epidemic of gun violence in our country. The American people are crying out for a vote, and we have a moral obligation to take action.

Two weeks ago, Democrats stood and sat on this floor and demanded a commonsense gun violence prevention bill. We are back today to continue that fight.

The bills the Republicans are bringing to the floor this week do little to eliminate the scourge of gun violence in our communities. In fact, the Zeldin bill is supported by the National Rifle Association. I think that is all you need to know.

We need to move a real no fly, no buy bill, one that actually prevents potential terrorists from getting dangerous weapons. But our work cannot stop there because gun violence in this country does not only occur at the hands of terrorists. We need to address the issue of universal background checks, to ban assault weapons, and to conduct research on gun violence.

No more deaths. The American people deserve a Congress that votes on the issues that they most care about. Not one more death in this country.

□ 1445

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in my district, the Fourth District of Georgia, the people are tired of gratuitous gun violence. Gun violence and gun deaths have risen by 8 percent over the last decade.

Just this Friday night, a 35-year-old female was killed. Her brother had

been killed a year earlier—both by gunfire. Saturday night, a 35-year-old male was killed. His brother had been killed a year ago by gunfire—both of them. Families are being torn asunder. No family should have to live under that. A 38-year-old male not far from my office lost his life over a parking space over this past weekend.

Gratuitous gun violence has to stop. There is something that Congress can do about it. We need to take action, little, small action like closing the gun show loophole. It makes a big difference. A little action like no fly, no buy makes a big difference. But this Congress, under the control of the NRA, is unable to do so.

It is time for change.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Democrats made a clear and powerful statement that we will not stand silent as thousands of Americans are victimized by gun violence.

JOHN LEWIS, JOHN LARSON, and more than 100 other Democratic Members didn't hold this floor for 26 straight hours—and hold events with thousands of people across the country just last week—just to get a vote on legislation that won't make Americans safer. This week, Republicans will have a vote on a bill that was written by the NRA and would not address the scourge of gun violence.

The American people deserve a vote on legislation that will actually keep those under investigation for terrorism from purchasing guns legally in our country, bipartisan legislation like Republican Representative PETER KING's no fly, no buy bill. They also deserve a vote on legislation that would strengthen and make comprehensive background checks.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, if Democrats sound frustrated with the House's failure to act on gun violence, it is because we are. In New York City over this past weekend, 14 people were shot in 10 incidents. Three weeks ago, more than 100 people were shot in a single evening in a single club in Orlando, and 49 of them died.

My Democratic colleagues and I have been running through the statistics over and over again for years now—tens of thousands of deaths every year. Since we had the sit-in on the House floor just a few weeks ago, more than 1,000 Americans have died from gun violence. That is shameful.

So, yes, we are frustrated because this is the only country in the devel-

oped world with gun laws like these. Australia changed its gun laws, and as a result, they virtually have no gun homicides in that place. We just sit and mourn and do nothing.

You can order one over the Internet. We don't require background checks, and they will ship it to your house.

We are asking for no fly, no buy, and we are asking for background checks.

You can walk up to a booth at a gun show and hand a stranger a stack of cash and walk away with a semiautomatic assault rifle, no questions asked. Under current law, even if the FBI has probable cause to believe you are a terrorist, you can walk into a gun store and pass a background check. That is shameful.

We have to make a choice. We have to act. I ask my good colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together and pass sensible gun control legislation.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as the representative of New Jersey's Tenth Congressional District—which suffered one-third of the State's total gun deaths last year—I know the destruction that gun violence inflicts, and I know how important it is that we do more to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Today we stand with the vast majority of the American people in support of a very simple principle: our gun laws should uphold and protect the freedom of all Americans—that includes responsible gun owners and those Americans trying to exercise their basic right to be free from gun violence.

We stand with the vast majority of Americans who believe that, if you are too dangerous to fly, you are too dangerous to buy a gun; who believe that we need to keep guns from criminals, domestic abusers, and dangerously mentally ill individuals.

Mr. Speaker, on this day of action, we renew our call for Republican leadership to give the American people a vote that is bipartisan in nature on gun safety legislation. We cannot continue to have the NRA stand for “no Republican action.”

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the NRA-authored H.R. 4237, the so-called Protect America Act.

Mr. Speaker, how does this legislation protect America from gun violence? This bill would do nothing to close the terror gap that currently allows suspected terrorists to legally buy guns. This bill would do nothing to ad-

dress our anemic background check system that allows up to 40 percent of all firearm transfers to proceed without a background check. And this bill will do nothing to keep guns out of the hands of the dangerously mentally ill.

Mr. Speaker, there are steps that Congress can take to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people and to keep Americans safe from gun violence. Unfortunately, the Protect America Act would accomplish neither.

This body should be concerned with protecting Americans from gun violence, not protecting its Members from tough votes.

Mr. Speaker, let the people's House vote on real, meaningful, commonsense legislation that would keep our constituents safe.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a mother, the second best day of my life was when my son was born. The first best day was when he returned safely from war. That is because every night was almost unbearable. I prayed that I would not get that fateful knock at the door.

My son went to war, and that knock on the door—while you don't want it, it is unimaginable—but you expect it. But no parent—no parent—should worry that they are going to get that knock on the door when they put their child on a schoolbus or when their child goes to the movies or out for a celebration.

My constituent, Greg Key, got that knock. His daughter, Lindsay, age 19, went to a party and became the victim of a stray bullet.

Mr. Speaker, how many more devastated parents like Greg and the moms and dads we have heard about have to get devastating news and feel devastating pain? It is time for this Congress to do its job.

No more guns for criminals or terrorists.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we are here with a very simple plea this morning with 5-minutes and this afternoon with 1-minutes.

We know the Speaker is an honorable man. We know that the chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. SESSIONS, is an honorable man. We in the minority are just asking for two commonsense, simple votes, both that have bipartisan support and sit here waiting to be discharged. But in the minority, it is the only voice that we have.

This minority party represents, actually, a majority of the American citizens, and we can't get a vote on what